

# MEDIA RELEASE



*Viva Water Pure and Clean Viva Forests Rich and Green*  
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## **MEDIA STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY, MR RONNIE KASRILS**

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### **SEVEN MILLIONTH PERSON TO RECEIVE WATER**

Mrs Mankosipheth Ntuntuma of Qhaka, near Port St Johns, today became the seven millionth person to receive water from the Government's Community Water and Sanitation programme.

This achievement means that since 1994, the Government has wiped out 50 percent of the backlog in the delivery of water. In addition to this magnificent achievement, it also means that South Africa has already achieved the Millennium Target.

This target was set by the first meeting of the Heads of State at the United Nations in 2000, when our president Thabo Mbeki together with over 100 other heads of state, committed themselves to delivering water by 2015 to at least 50 percent of their citizens who had not yet received water.

Since moving to Qhaka in 1962, Mrs Ntuntuma walked 800 meters to a nearby river to fetch water. She now receives water from a standpipe near her home.

There is still a further seven million of our people without access to water. The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry has committed R1,1-billion per year over the next year years for the delivery of water and sanitation. As I pointed

out in my Budget Vote in May, we expect at the current rate of expenditure to have delivered water to all South Africans by 2008/09.

The delivery of these basic services received a significant boost with a grant of more than R600-million from the European Union. This grant forms part of a 20 percent subsidy of a R2,2-billion government project, called Masibambane.

In terms of the Masibambane project 2,4 million people in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu/Natal and the Northern Province will receive water and sanitation services over the next three years.

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